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The Home

IS HOUSEKEEPING HARD.

The revolt of certain women against housekeeping is not a revolt against their husbands; it is simply a revolt against their duties. They consider housework hard and monotonous and inferior, and confess with a cynical frankness that they prefer to engross paper, or dabble in art, or embroider pillow-shams, or sell goods, or in some way make money to pay servants who will cook their husband's dinner and nurse their babies for them. And they believe that in this way they show themselves to have superior minds and ask credit for a deed which ought to cover them with shame, for actions speak louder than words. And what does such action say? In the first place, it asserts that any stranger—even a young, uneducated peasant girl, hired for a few dollars a month—is able to perform the duties of the house mistress and the mother. In the second place, it substitutes a poor ambition for love, and hand service for heart service. In the third place, it is a visible abasement of the loftiest duties of womanhood to the capacity of the lowest paid service. A wife and mother cannot thus absolve her own soul; she simply disgraces and traduces her holiest work.

Suppose, even, that housekeeping is hard and monotonous, it is not more so than men's work in the city. The first lesson a business man has to learn is to do pleasantly what he does not like to do. All regular, useful work must be monotonous; but love ought to make it easy, and, at any rate, the tedium of housework is not greater than tedium of office work. As for housekeeping being degrading, that is the veriest nonsense. Home is a little royalty, and if a housewife and mother be of elements finely mixed, and loftily educated, all the more she will regard the cold mutton question of importance, and consider the quality of the soup, and the quantity of chutney in the curry, as requiring her best attention. It is only the weakest, silliest women who cannot lift their work to the level of their thoughts and so ennoble both.—The Banner.

HOSPITALITY A TALENT.

Home is a talent, says Rev. Dr. Johnston in the Montreal Witness. It is generally recognized that money is a talent to be used for others. Home is also a talent. Make your home the place of hospitality, especially for those who are without homes of their own, among them the great number living in boarding houses in the city. I admire the tact, the ability and self-reliance of the young woman who goes out to business because it is necessary for her to do so. I do not admire those who, having no such necessity, enter the business life, making the competition harder for the others who have their own living to make. But was there not a danger that a little of the fine bloom of young womanhood should be rubbed off in the contact with the world of business? The strident voice, the brusque manner sometimes noticed in business girls were to be regretted. God has made a distinction between the sexes that cannot be broken down. When we find women in almost every position formerly occupied only by men, there is great need for home influences to preserve the fineness of womanly character. Brought into close companionship with men of all classes and conditions, and with restraints that formerly surrounded their lives broken down, young women find their path constantly crossed by danger. The home influences and spiritual uplifting so much needed under these conditions is afforded by the Young Woman's Christian Association, and there is great reason why every one should be glad to help support such a home.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

To Mend Table Linen.—Always do this before sending it to the wash. Paste a piece of stiff paper over the hole on the right side, and then darn very carefully on the wrong. The darn should reach half a inch beyond the tear on all sides, and the crossing must be very neatly and accurately done. It is really more satisfactory to mend these places before they reach the hole stage, and takes far less time. It is a good plan to keep the pieces of linen left over after evening off the cloth, as the unravelled threads are the very thing for mending with.

Laundry Hint.—To polish collars and cuffs you need a proper polishing iron, one with a rounded surface faced with steel. Iron each collar until quite dry. Lay it on a board covered with one thickness of cotton only. Rub over with a clean rag squeezed out of cold water, and iron quickly with your polishing iron, pressing hard. The iron should be moderately hot.

Ink stains may be removed from white goods with lemon and salt. Cover the stain with fine salt, squeeze the lemon juice on it, and rub between the hands. A second application will be necessary when the ink is obstinate.

In washing knives, it is best to have a wide-mouthed ing half filled with water, so that the blades only are covered. If the handles are placed in water they quickly become discolored and frequently come off. In the latter event they can be mended by filling the hole in the handle with powdered resin, and replacing the blade, the shaft of which has been heated to redness. When cold the blade will be found firmly fixed.

If the butter has to be softened it is wasteful to set it on the stove or in the oven. Some of the butter is sure to run to oil, which few people like to eat. When the oil hardens again its nature has been changed and deteriorated. Moist heat is better than dry heat. If the butter must be softened by artificial means, so set the plate with the butter over a basin of hot water.

Almost every lamp wants boiling occasionally when the lamp burns dimly, and no attention to oil or wick will make any difference. Take the lamp apart, remove the wick, and then boil both burner and wick in hot water in which has been thrown some washing soda. When every part has been thoroughly cleansed and as thoroughly dried, put in the wick, trim it, fill the lamp with oil and the light will be brilliant.

Jesus came to reveal God to man. He came also to reveal man to man. Apart from him—his person, his character, his teaching—we can have no true conception of the divine ideal for man, but in him we have a concrete example of the great thought that possessed the mind of Deity when God said, "Let us make man."—Campbell Morgan.

Bear Island, Aug. 26, 1903.
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